

Using the Names of the Angels

Source: Belief of the Muslim sects, Jews, Christians, Philosophers and idolaters about the Al-Mala'ikah Al-Muqarrabeen. (p62)

By Shaykh Muhammad 'Abdul Wahaab al-'Aqeel

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Ibnul Qayyim said¹:

Amongst those names that it is disliked to use are the names of the angels, such as Jibreel, Mika'eel, Israfeel, for verily it is disliked that a human be named with them. Ashhab said: Malik was asked about naming someone Jibreel. He disliked this and was not pleased with it.

Al-Baghawee said²:

It is disliked to name someone with the names of the angels like Jibreel and Mika'eel because Umar ibn al-Khattab had disliked this, and it has not reached us from any of the Companions or their Successors that they named their children with the names of any of them.

It is said that this has been disliked out of fear that a person will be insulted, abused or cursed, and he is named with an angel's name.

And he said: This is the opinion of Humayd ibn Zanjawayh.

Some of the people of knowledge hold the position that it is permissible to use the names of the angels.

Abdur Razzaaq narrated upon Ma'mar that he said:

I said to Hammaad ibn Abi Sulaimaan, 'What do you say about a man who has been named Jibreel or Mika'eel?' He responded, 'there is nothing wrong with it.'³

An-Nawawi said, 'Our madhab and the madhab of the *Jumhoor* is that it is permissible to take the names of the Prophets and Angels...because it is not authentically reported upon the Prophet that he prohibited this, so it is not disliked.'⁴

Shaykh Muhammed ibn 'Abdil Wahhaab Al-'Aqeel said (author of the book):

That which is correct, and Allah knows best, that there are names of the Angels which were shared (which were used for humans and angels) like Malik, and there are those names which were specific to the Angels like Jibreel, Mika'eel and Israfeel. Therefore, those names that were used for humans and angels then that which is apparent is that it is

¹ Tuh'fatul Mawood p94

² Sharh as-Sunnah v12, p335/336

³ Musanaf v12, p40

⁴ Majmoo v8, p436

permissible to use them, as the name Maalik was widely used at the time of the Prophet (Sallaaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) and the Prophet (Sallaaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) did not change it, and if it was disliked he would have changed it like he had changed other names. As for those names which were specific to the angels like Jibreel, Mika'eel and Israafeel then what is apparent is that it is disliked to use them, because it is not found that any of the Companions or their Successors were named with them and we have been commanded to imitate them and follow their guidance. So it is better to abstain from these names and Allah knows best.